



## MICHELLE R. KENNEY

ELDER LAW ATTORNEY | FLORIDA SUPREME COURT  
CERTIFIED CIRCUIT CIVIL & COUNTY MEDIATOR

Michelle R. Kenney is a founding member of GAPS Legal, PLLC. GAPS Legal, PLLC was created to serve the specific legal needs of the guardianship, advocacy, probate, planning and special needs communities. Prior to obtaining her JD from NSU Shepard Broad College of Law in 2016, Michelle served vulnerable and disabled individuals in South Florida in various roles since 1994, with over 19 years in the guardianship community. She was the Executive Director and a Professional Guardian for a non-profit corporate guardianship program where she administered over 100 guardianships and monitored the agency operations that ensured quality care for her clients and their families. She is a Florida Supreme Court certified circuit civil and county mediator and is an instructor for the guardianship courses in Broward County and online across Florida. Michelle has been an educator for the National Guardianship Association since 2007 and served as a Board Member for the organization for four years.

Ms. Kenney is a past president of the Center for Guardianship Certification, the Florida State Guardianship Association and the Broward County Guardianship Association and has served on various committees for these organizations with a focus on education and increasing professionalism. She is a current member of the Florida Bar and the Broward County Bar Association and serves as a committee member for the Florida Bar Elder Law Section's Guardianship Committee. She is a current board member of the Florida Justice Technology Center and serves on the advisory board for Nova Southeastern University's Shepard Broad College of Law Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law Clinic.

Ms. Kenney has been published in *The Caucus*, the Broward County Bar Association *Barrister*, and has participated in the development of most of the curricula used in Florida for guardianship trainings. Michelle has facilitated educational offerings at the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys Elder Concert for several years and recently presented at the Family Café in addition to various local and online presentations. Since 2001, she has provided over 1,500 of hours of guardianship education nationally and in Florida to close to 4,000 professionals and family members.

She was a recipient of the Broward County Women Lawyers' Association Rising Star Scholarship and the National Guardianship Association Outstanding Affiliate Member Award.

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**EDUCATION**

**Nova Southeastern University, Shepard Broad College of Law**, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
*Juris Doctor*, May 2016 (summa cum laude)

**Mediation Training Group, Inc.**, Boca Raton, Florida

*16 Hour Elder Mediation and Shared Family Decision Making Workshop*, November 2015

*Florida Supreme Court Certified 40-Hour Circuit Civil Mediation Training*, July 2010

*Florida Supreme Court Certified County Mediation Training*, February 2010

**Florida Atlantic University**, Boca Raton, Florida

*Bachelor of Arts in Psychology*, 1992

- Worked on an independent study that focused on interpersonal conflict for research presentation to the South Eastern Psychological Association.

**EXPERIENCE**

**GAPS Legal, PLLC**, Sunrise, Florida

*Elder Law Attorney*, January 2018-Present

**Michelle R. Kenney, P.A.**, Sunrise, Florida

*Elder Law Attorney*, September 2017-Present

**Rainy Day Disability Resources, Inc.**, Boca Raton, Florida

*Founder*, February 2012 - 2017

- Established a 501(c)3 to improve the lives of disabled individuals by providing proactive and innovative funding options along with education and specialized resources.

**Florida Elder Law Concepts, P.A.**, Boca Raton, Florida

*Associate Attorney*, September 2016 - September 2017

*Paralegal for Sherri A. Greenblatt, Esq.*, August 2009 - September 2016

**Redgrave & Rosenthal LLP**, Boca Raton, Florida

*Paralegal for Sherri A. Greenblatt, Esq.*, March 2007 - July 2009

**CareSource, Inc.**, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

*Executive Director, Professional Guardian*, 1999 - December 2006

- Worked as the Executive Director for a 501(c)3 social services agency serving the frail, elderly, disabled, or at-risk populations of South Florida.
- Administered over 100 guardianships.
- Monitored all areas of agency operations, with an emphasis on ensuring quality client care and maintaining professional ethics.
- Developed, coordinated and supervised program services including grant development and implementation.

Various social service agencies, Palm Beach & Broward Counties, Florida

*Case Manager*, 1994 - 1999

- Worked with various populations including the developmentally disabled, the mentally ill, and the elderly.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Broward County, Florida**

*Family Guardian Training Programs, 2001 – Present*

- Instructor for both the 8-hour and 4-hour statutorily required guardianship courses currently offered through the Broward County Bar Association, and online through Guardianship Training & Support Services. Online courses approved in multiple Florida Circuits. Since 2001, provided over 1,500 hours of guardianship instruction to over 3,300 students and professionals.

### **Florida State Guardianship Association (FSGA)**

*Certified Trainer, 2002 – Present*

- Worked on the development of several curricula for the Association including developing an exam review course for FL professional guardians in partnership with the National Guardianship Association.

### **Statewide Public Guardianship Office, Tallahassee, Florida**

*40-Hour Professional Guardian Training, 2003 – 2013*

- Responsible for overall course structure and administration.

### **National Guardianship Association**

*Approved Educator, 2007 – Present*

- Facilitate webinars on guardianship topics.

### **AFELA Elder Concert, Fort Lauderdale, Florida**

*Speaker, “Dealing with Difficult People”, “Identifying Good Providers, Consultants & Services”, “How to Keep the Auditors Happy and Reduce Compliance Issues on Financial Reports”, 2011, 2012, 2018*

### **The Family Café, Orlando, Florida**

*Speaker, “When Being Mom (or Dad) Stops Being Good Enough, June 2017*

**Community Presentations** on a regular basis on such topics as estate planning, incapacity planning, probate avoidance, guardianship, guardian advocacy, special needs planning, financing special needs

## **LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS**

### **Supreme Court of the State of Florida**

*Attorney/Counselor at Law, September 2016-Present*

### **Supreme Court of the State of Florida**

*Certified Circuit & County Mediator, 2011 – Present*

### **Center for Guardianship Certification**

*National Certified Guardian, February 2005 – February 2011*

*National Certified Guardian, Emeritus, February 2011 – Present*

### **National Academy of Certified Care Managers**

*Care Manager Certified, 2002 – 2009*

## **PUBLICATIONS AND CURRICULA**

- Michelle Kenney. "So You Think You Want To Give Elder Mediation A Try?" 2016. *The Caucus*. 3.
- Statewide workgroup participant for revisions to the 40-hour professional guardian training course.
- Developed and was the instructor for an 8-hour course for court-appointed guardianship attorneys in Florida.
- Co-author of FSGA's "A Guardianship Training Manual for the Parents of a Minor".
- Participant in a statewide workgroup to develop a 4-hour curriculum for guardianship Examining Committee members.
- Served on the Broward County Probate Division Task Force to revise guardianship reporting documents.
- Newsletter editor and contributor for the Florida State Guardianship Association's newsletter, *The Florida Guardian*, from 2003 to 2007.
- Article published in *Barrister*, Broward County Bar Association newsletter.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- Member of the Broward County Bar Association (2014-present).
- Member of the Florida Bar Elder Law Section's Guardianship Committee (October 2017-present).
- Member of the American Bar Association (September 2016-2018).
- Member Florida Association for Women Lawyers (December 2017-2018).
- Member of the National Guardianship Association since 2005. Served on Income Development and Education Committees since 2008, past Chair of Income Development Committee. Served on Board of Directors from 2011-2015.
- Trustee of the Center for Guardianship Certification from January 2009-December 2015. Chair of the National Respect, Recognition and Utilization Committee, Executive Board positions from 2011-2015. President 2014.
- Member of the Florida State Guardianship Association since 2005. Served on Board of Directors and Past President. Chair of Education Committee 2007-2009.
- Member of the Broward County Guardianship Association. Past President.
- Member National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers and Florida Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers from October 2002-December 2014.
- Past Secretary and Treasurer of the Broward Coalition on Aging.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Board Member Florida Justice Technology Center since March 2018. Chair of the 2018 Audit Committee.
- Member of the Advisory Board for Nova Southeastern University's Shepard Broad College of Law Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law Clinic since November 2018.

## **AWARDS**

Broward County Women Lawyers' Association Rising Star Scholarship Recipient, 2014

National Guardianship Association Outstanding Affiliate Member Award, Florida State Guardianship Association, 2010